

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of the Application

Prior to the entry of this amendment, claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-15, 20 and 21 were pending in this application. The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,097,707 to Kammerer ("Kammerer"), objected to claims 10, 12, 14 and 15 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and allowed claims 20 and 21.

The present amendment amends claim 1, cancels claim 10 and adds new claims 24-27. Therefore, claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 11-15, 20, 21 and 24-27 are presented for examination in this amendment. No new matter is added by the amendment to claim 1 or the new claims. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

In the Office Action independent claim was rejected as being anticipated by Kammerer. The Office Action also objected to dependent claims 10, 12, 14 and 15, but found that claim 10, 12, 14 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim. To expedite prosecution of the present application and without consideration as to the merits of the Section 102 rejection of independent claim 1 over the Kammerer reference, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of dependent claim 10. As such, Applicants believe that independent claim 1, as amended, and the claims depending from the amended claim are patentable over Kammerer. Additionally, Applicants have drafted new independent claims that include the limitations of previous independent claim 1 and dependent claims 14 and 15. Applicants have also drafted a new method claim depending from allowed claim 20, new claim 26, and a new independent apparatus claim, claim 27, which includes features not disclosed in the Kammerer reference.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

In the event that a fee or refund is due in connection with this Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No 19-0615.

Further, any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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